P17762.A07

263/

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

: Yasuo NISHIDA et al.

Appl. No

: 09/285,700

Filed

: April 5, 1999

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COMMUNICATION METHOD

Examiner:

Group Art Unit: 2731

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 13, 2000 in the above-identified application, Applicants hereby call to the Examiner's attention the following document:

A copy of a Notice of the Reasons for the Rejections mailed on December 5, 2000 in counterpart Japanese Application HEI 11-081406 is enclosed, in which the following documents were cited:

- (1) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-334007, along with an English language translation;
- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-065963, which corresponds to European Patent Application EP 0 898 410 A2, a copy of which is enclosed;
- (3) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-261628, along with an English language Abstract;
 - (4) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-112772;

P17762.A07

(5) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-127330; and

(6) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-088645.

The undersigned hereby certifies that items (1) through (3) contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Items (4) through (6) were previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 14, 1999. Thus, no fee is required to be paid in order to ensure consideration of the submitted materials.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted, Yasuo NISHIDA et al.

Bruce H. Bernstein Reg. No. 29,027

March 5, 2001 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1941 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191